

## **Cherokee County**

### **1. What does educational achievement mean to our community?**

- More jobs
- More high school graduates and fewer dropouts
- Prosperity (wages economic development)
- Less crime
- Better cultural activities
- Stronger families
- High self-esteem
- Everything (depending on the community)
- Economic development for the business community
- Academic success for schools
- Athletics
- Less crime/safer neighborhoods
- Higher standard of living
- Cultural understanding
- Skilled workforce
- Spiritual enhancement

### **2. What is needed in our community so that ALL students can succeed? (Strengths & Challenges)**

- After school programs
- Access to reading
- Parenting skills
- Smaller class sizes
- Raise the bar for students (equal access to school supplies)
- Teacher advisory council (teaching not fun)
- After school programs
- Pre-school programs
- Parent Involvement Training
- Attitude adjustments for students, parents, and teachers
- Higher expectations
- Improved career guidance

#### **Challenges:**

- Adequate funding to meet student needs
- Parent involvement and volunteerism
- Dental and mental health services for students
- Positive reinforcement at home and school
- Encourage after school attendance
- Parents encouraging parents (group meetings)
- Crisis counseling for children
- Support law enforcement neighborhood watch (drugs)
- Summer activities

#### **Strengths**

- Homework centers
- Cooperation between schools and community groups
- Fine Arts

- Athletics program
- Business/community challenge
- State Chamber 5 programs
- Job shadowing
- After school
- Low student/teacher ratios

**3. What programs, partnerships etc. work well in your community to support all students succeeding?**

- Career planning (guidance) in middle schools
- Boys and girls club
- Lunch buddies
- Abundance Angels program
- School business partners
- Athletics
- COS
- After school programs from B&GC, churches, YMCA, Salvation Army, and Housing Authority
- Year-round schools
- Renaissance program at GHS
- Career Education Advisory Council
- PTO
- SICs

**4. What can we do in our homes and neighborhoods to strengthen our schools?**

- Improve parental involvement
- Read to children
- Make sure children graduate
- Break welfare cycle
- Stress importance of education
- Partner more
- Attach drivers license privileges to graduation
- More positive public relations